

APPENDIX B

Ten Essential Public Health Services and Sample Activities

Listed below are the ten essential public health services as documented in Chapter 121, Health and Safety Code, and examples of essential service activities.

1. Monitor the health status of individuals in the community health problems;
 - Collection birth, death and illness statistics
 - Gather information on health problems in the community
 - Identify health problems that impact the community
 - Identify populations of people who are affected by specific health problems
 - Review health statistics periodically to look for new or changing health problems
 - Provide information on the health of the community
 - Recommend measures for the prevention of disease and injury based on identified causes
2. Diagnose and investigate community health problems and community health hazards;
 - Investigate disease outbreaks
 - Identify potential sources of diseases and health hazards
 - Collect information on diseases and conditions that are reportable by law
 - Verify reported diseases/conditions and follow-up with the reporting source
 - Conduct on-site visits of areas identified as possible sources of disease or injury
 - Develop and distribute information to alert the public to the existence of real health threats
 - Provide screening and preventive interventions (drugs, shots, etc.) for diseases of public health importance (STD's, TB, preventable diseases, etc.)
3. Inform, educate, and empower the community with respect to health issues;
 - Provide information to community residents on available health resources
 - Work with other health and human services agencies to educate clients about health issues
 - Develop relationships with community leaders who can influence people by example
 - Present health topics at health fairs, schools, senior citizens centers, churches, etc.
 - Work with minority and disadvantaged citizen groups to help them reach their members with appropriate health messages
 - Provide consultation to the public on specific public health issues (rabies, lice, scabies, etc.)
 - Conduct presentations on basic health issues (lead poisoning, food safety, etc.)
4. Mobilize community partnerships in identifying and solving community health problems;
 - Link community leaders with public health leaders and people with public health expertise
 - Facilitate communication between community groups on issues related to health
 - Convene focus groups and other meetings of people from the community to find out what their health concerns are and how they can best be dealt with
 - Develop and provide leadership to local coalitions of agencies interested in health issues
 - Assist in development and functioning of a local health advisory board or board of health
 - Facilitate sharing of information and dialogue between providers of health services and consumers of health care

5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community efforts to improve health;
 - Work with community leaders and local officials to develop plans addressing health needs
 - Draft model health laws and ordinances for consideration by local policy makers
 - Gather information on how existing laws affect health and recommend changes
 - Recommend emergency measures to local officials when there is an immediate threat to health requiring quick action
6. Enforce laws and rules that protect the public health and ensures safety in accordance with those laws and rules;
 - Conduct inspections of wholesale and retail food establishments and take actions necessary to assure compliance with federal, state and local food safety laws
 - Conduct sanitary and safety inspections of facilities used by the general public (camps, swimming pools, migrant housing, playgrounds, etc.)
 - Work with health care providers to ensure compliance with laws requiring the reporting of specific diseases to public health officials
 - Educate and provide assistance to local judges and law enforcement officials on cases involving quarantine of a communicable disease
 - Assist the locally appointed public health authority and rabies health authority (veterinarian or law enforcement official) in carrying out their responsibilities
7. Link individuals who have a need for community and personal health services to appropriate community and private providers;
 - Maintain a “catalogue” of health and medical care services available in the community
 - Direct people to the appropriate provider for their identified health and medical care needs
 - Help individuals access the care that they need by setting up appointments, arranging transportation, directing them to financial assistance programs, etc. as needed
 - Develop relationships with health and medical care providers in the community and make them aware of identified unmet needs in their community
 - Assist communities in developing resources to meet their health and medical needs
8. Ensure a competent workforce for the provision of essential public health services;
 - Provide training and updates to local health and medical care providers on topics such as immunizations, TB, STD’s, lead poisoning, etc.
 - Provide public health preceptorship opportunities to students and practicing professionals
 - Identify any weaknesses in a community’s ability to respond to public health problems and help the community formulate a plan to correct the deficiencies identified
9. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to community health problems;
 - Conduct community surveys and focus groups to elicit ideas on how to better meet the community’s health needs
 - Link the community to institutions of higher education to better inform the community and the university on the root causes of health problems and possible solutions
10. Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services in a community
 - Identify indicators of health problems in the community (such as infant deaths) and follow the progress of this indicator to see if changes in health services have a positive or negative impact
 - Help health care providers review their records to identify where they may not be meeting established standard of care
 - Provide feedback to providers on how difficult or easy it is to get people the care they need within their own community